

According to one important aspect of the invention, each of the pegs 18 are permanently mounted to the tray 12 in such a manner as to be moveable between a first storage position, which is illustrated in FIG. 2, wherein the entire peg 18 is positioned relatively close to the upper face 16 for storage and packaging, and a second, operative position, illustrated in FIG. 1, wherein the pegs 18 are positioned at a large angle with respect to the upper surface 16. This mounting arrangement is made possible by a permanent mounting structure 20, which is best illustrated in FIGS. 1, 3 and 4, and which will be discussed in greater detail below. The permanent mounting structure 20, as will become apparent from the description given below, is constructed in such a way that no standing water may collect at a point where a peg 18 is mounted, thereby minimizing potential for mold and bacterial growth. Permanent mounting structure 20 is further constructed so as to constrain the pegs 18 for movement about only a single axis of rotation.

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As may be seen in FIG. 1, apparatus 10 further includes a number of [nipple] ring support members 32 that are constructed and arranged to support a nipple portion of a baby bottle after washing and rinsing. The [nipple] ring support members 32 are, in a manner that is substantially identical to that of the pegs 18, mounted by means of a permanent mounting structure 20 for movement between a first storage position, where the entire [nipple] ring support member 32 is positioned relatively close to the upper face 16 for storage and packaging purposes, and a second, operative position where the [nipple] ring support member 32 is positioned at a large angle with respect to the upper face 16. In other words, the mounting structure 20 for the pegs 18 is substantially identical to that of the [nipple] ring support members 32. The [nipple] ring support members 32 have stylized stops 48, which in the preferred embodiment are styled as hearts, mounted thereon for supporting rings or small bottles above the surface of tray 12.

Looking again to FIG. 1, it will be seen that in the illustrated embodiment of the invention four pegs 18 are constrained for common, ganged movement in an arc about a common axis of rotation that is created by a first axle 22. Similarly, a second four pegs 18 are mounted for common movement with a second axle 24. Four [nipple] ring support

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members 32 are mounted for common movement about a third axle 28, while a second four [nipple] ring support members 32 are mounted for common movement with a fourth axle 30. In the preferred embodiment, the axles 22, 24, 28, 30 are substantially parallel, and therefore define arcuate paths of movement for the various pegs 18 and [nipple] ring support members 32 that are located within substantially parallel planes. This permits the various pegs 18 and [nipple] ring support members 32 to move between the first and second positions, as represented by FIGS. 2 and 1, respectively, with a minimum of interference with each other.

Looking now to FIG. 3, it will be seen that each axle 22, 24, 28, 30 includes a journal 38 that extends through a mounting hole that is defined in a sidewall 36 of an upstanding dam 34 that is formed along the periphery of the upper face 16 of the tray 12. A significant vertical distance exists between the bottom of the mounting hole and the top face 16 of the tray 12, so that water cannot escape through the mounting holes onto an underlying surface during normal use of the apparatus 10. This mounting structure 20 is arranged in such a way so as to constrain the axle 22, 24, 28, 30 for movement about an axis of rotation 40, as is shown in FIG. 3.

Please substitute the following four paragraphs for the four paragraphs that were in Column 4 of the original Specification (which is the same as Column 4 of U.S. Patent 6,038,784):

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Mounting structure 20, by ganging adjacent pegs 18 and adjacent [nipple] ring support members 32 together by use of a common axle, thereby imparts lateral stability to the pegs 18 and the [nipple] ring support members 32, further deterring any motion other than about the single axis of rotation 40. Accordingly, the pegs 18 are constrained to move in a predetermined plane of rotation 49.

As may best be seen in FIGS. 1 and 4, each axle 22, 24, 28, 30 includes at least one locating structure 26, the purpose of which is to lock the respective axle in a rotational

position that corresponds to the second operative position shown in FIG. 1. In the illustrated embodiment, first and second axles 22, 24 include two such locating structures 26, while the third and fourth axles 28, 30 which support the shorter [nipple] ring support members 32, are equipped with but one locating structure 26. The construction of the locating structures 26, however, is uniform throughout the four axles 22, 24, 28, 30. As may be seen in FIG. 4, locating structure 26 includes a cam member 43 having a lower surface 44 that is constructed and arranged to bear against the upper face 16 of tray 12, and a forward surface 46 that is constructed and arranged to come into contact with a rear surface 44 of a cam stop 42 that projects upwardly and is unitary with the upper face 16 of tray 12. FIG. 1 and FIG. 4 both depict the locking structure 26 in the second, operative position. The path between the first and second positions is indicated in FIG. 4 by arrow [46] 47. The [nipple] ring support member 32 is prevented from bending backwardly in the direction away from the first storage position by contact of the forward surface 46 of cam member 43 with the rear surface 44 of cam stop 42.

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If it is desired to move the [nipple] ring support member 32 from the second, operative position shown in FIG. 1 to the first storage position shown in FIG. 2, a user will push the [nipple] ring support member 32 in the desired direction. Initially, this movement will be deterred by the frictional contact of the lower surface 44 and the leading edge 45 of the lower surface with the upper face 16 of tray 12. Once the leading edge 45 has cleared the upper face, however, the [nipple] ring support member 32 will easily fold down into the position that is shown in FIG. 2.

According to another important aspect of the invention, apparatus 10 further includes a disk holding system 50 for holding baby bottle disks in a location that is isolated from areas of the tray 12 in which liquid may collect. This allows baby bottle [disk] disks to be dried and stored in a safe manner at a location that is convenient to a location at which baby bottles are being dried. In the preferred embodiment, [disc] disk holding system 50 includes an upstanding boss member 52 that projects upwardly from the upper face 16 of tray 12 and has a plurality of [disc] disk receiving slots 54 defined therein. Boss member 52

and slots 54 are raised with respect to an underlying reservoir 56 that is located in the forward portion of tray 12. As an added benefit, the reservoir space also acts as a finger space area for a user to get his/her fingers beneath the [disc] disk members for lifting them out after drying.

It is to be understood, however, that even though numerous characteristics and advantages of the present invention have been set forth in the foregoing description, together with details of the structure and function of the invention, the disclosure is illustrative only, and changes may be made in detail, especially in matters of shape, size and arrangement of parts within the principles of the invention to the full extent indicated by the broad general meaning of the terms in which the appended claims are expressed.

In the Claims:

Kindly delete claims 1, 3 and 8 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please amend the claims to read as follows. (For the Examiner's convenience, all of the claims presently pending are listed below.)

2. An apparatus for storing an article, comprising:

a tray having a bottom face that is adapted to be supported by an underlying surface such as a counter-top, and an upper face; and

a plurality of pegs extending outwardly from said upper face, each of said pegs being sized and arranged so as to be able to support an article, and

wherein each of said pegs are permanently mounted to said tray in such a manner as to be movable between a first storage position, wherein said entire peg is positioned adjacent to said upper face for storage and packaging of said apparatus, and a second, operative position, wherein said peg is positioned so as to extend outwardly from said upper surface, so as to enable said peg to support an article, wherein said apparatus can conveniently be folded for packaging and storage purposes, and. [An apparatus according to claim 1,] wherein said pegs are mounted to